

# Alton, NH

## Community Contact

**Town of Alton**  
**Board of Selectmen**  
**PO Box 659**  
**Alton, NH 03809**

Telephone  
 Fax  
 E-mail  
 Web Site

**(603) 875-2161**  
**(603) 875-0207**  
**administrator@alton.nh.gov**  
**www.alton.nh.gov**

## Municipal Office Hours

**Monday through Friday, 8:30 am - 4:30 pm**

County  
 Labor Market Area  
 Tourism Region  
 Planning Commission  
 Regional Development

**Belknap**  
**Wolfeboro NH LMA**  
**Lakes**  
**Lakes Region**  
**Belknap County Economic Development Council**

## Election Districts

US Congress  
 Executive Council  
 State Senate  
 State Representative

**District 1**  
**District 1**  
**District 4**  
**Belknap County District 5**

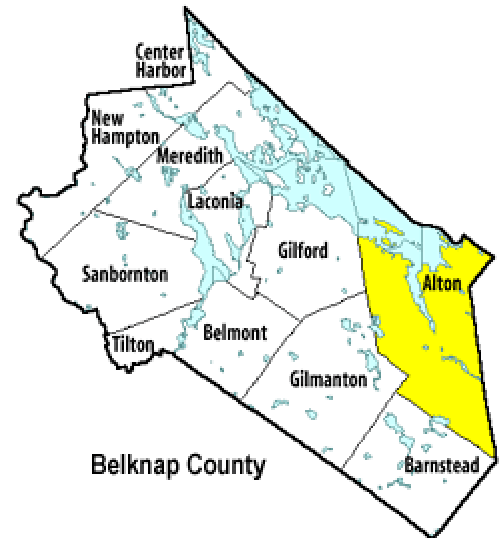
**Incorporated:** 1796

**Origin:** Originally called New Durham Gore, the town was settled by a group from Roxbury, Massachusetts. There were already two towns named Roxbury in New England, so the town was incorporated as Alton in honor of a prominent family from Roxbury. The town's boundary envelopes the five-mile long Alton Bay, southeastern point of Lake Winnepesaukee, and includes the southern side of Wolfeboro Harbor and all of the largest islands in the southeast end of the lake. Alton's 19.3 square miles of inland water area is the highest among the cities and towns in New Hampshire.

**Villages and Place Names:** Alton Bay, East Alton, Mount Major, South Alton, West Alton

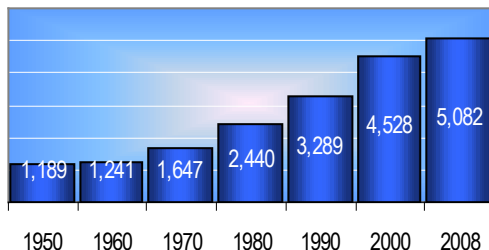
**Population, Year of the First Census Taken:** 445 residents in 1790

**Population Trends:** Population change for Alton totaled 3,339 over 50 years, from 1,189 in 1950 to 4,528 in 2000. The largest decennial percent change was a 48 percent increase between 1970 and 1980, followed by 35 percent and 38 percent increases over the next two decades.



**Belknap County**

The 2008 Census estimate for Alton was 5,082 residents, which ranked 66th among New Hampshire's incorporated cities and towns.



**Population Density and Land Area, 2008** (NH Office of Energy & Planning): 79.5 persons per square mile of land area. Alton contains 63.9 square miles of land area and 19.3 square miles of inland water area.

**MUNICIPAL SERVICES**

Type of Government	<b>Selectmen</b>
Budget: Municipal Appropriations, 2009	<b>\$7,075,746</b>
Budget: School Appropriations, 2009	<b>\$11,623,952</b>
Zoning Ordinance	<b>1970/07</b>
Master Plan	<b>2002</b>
Capital Improvement Plan	<b>Yes</b>
Industrial Plans Reviewed By	<b>Planning Board</b>

**Boards and Commissions**

Elected: **Selectmen; Planning; Library; Cemetery; Budget; Checklist; Trust Funds; Water; Zoning**

Appointed: **Conservation; Parks & Recreation**

Public Library **Gilman**

**EMERGENCY SERVICES**

Police Department	Full & part-time	
Fire Department	Full & part-time	
Town Fire Insurance Rating	6/9	
Emergency Medical Service	Municipal	
Nearest Hospital(s)	Distance	Staffed Beds
<b>Huggins Hospital, Wolfeboro</b>	<b>11 miles</b>	<b>25</b>

**UTILITIES**

Electric Supplier	<b>PSNH; NH Electric Coop; Wolfeboro Electric</b>
Natural Gas Supplier	<b>None</b>
Water Supplier	<b>Alton Water Works</b>
Sanitation	<b>Private septic</b>
Municipal Wastewater Treatment Plant	<b>No</b>
Solid Waste Disposal	
Curbside Trash Pickup	<b>Private</b>
Pay-As-You-Throw Program	<b>No</b>
Recycling Program	<b>Mandatory</b>
Telephone Company	<b>Fairpoint; Union</b>
Cellular Telephone Access	<b>Yes</b>
Cable Television Access	<b>Yes</b>
Public Access Television Station	<b>Yes</b>
High Speed Internet Service: Business	<b>Yes</b>
Residential	<b>Yes</b>

**PROPERTY TAXES** (NH Dept. of Revenue Administration)

2008 Total Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)	<b>\$11.30</b>
2008 Equalization Ratio	<b>98.2</b>
2008 Full Value Tax Rate (per \$1000 of value)	<b>\$11.08</b>
2008 Percent of Local Assessed Valuation by Property Type	
Residential Land and Buildings	<b>96.2%</b>
Commercial Land and Buildings	<b>3.4%</b>
Public Utilities, Current Use, and Other	<b>0.4%</b>

**HOUSING SUPPLY** (NH Office of Energy and Planning)

2008 Total Housing Units	<b>4,199</b>
2008 Single-Family Units	<b>3,754</b>
Residential Permits, Net Change of Units	<b>49</b>
2008 Multi-Family Units	<b>241</b>
Residential Permits, Net Change of Units	<b>0</b>
2008 Manufactured Housing Units	<b>204</b>

**DEMOGRAPHICS**

(US Census Bureau)

Total Population	Community	County
2008	<b>5,082</b>	<b>61,281</b>
2000	<b>4,528</b>	<b>56,576</b>
1990	<b>3,289</b>	<b>49,294</b>
1980	<b>2,440</b>	<b>42,884</b>
1970	<b>1,647</b>	<b>32,367</b>

**Census 2000 Demographics**

Population by Gender		
Male	<b>2,238</b>	Female <b>2,264</b>

**Population by Age Group**

Under age 5	<b>273</b>
Age 5 to 19	<b>887</b>
Age 20 to 34	<b>630</b>
Age 35 to 54	<b>1,472</b>
Age 55 to 64	<b>545</b>
Age 65 and over	<b>695</b>
Median Age	<b>41.4 years</b>

**Educational Attainment, population 25 years and over**

High school graduate or higher	<b>87.9%</b>
Bachelor's degree or higher	<b>21.5%</b>

**ANNUAL INCOME, 1999**

(US Census Bureau)

Per capita income	<b>\$25,940</b>
Median 4-person family income	<b>\$46,467</b>
Median household income	<b>\$43,451</b>

**Median Earnings, full-time, year-round workers**

Male	<b>\$37,585</b>
Female	<b>\$29,375</b>

Families below the poverty level	<b>5.4%</b>
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**LABOR FORCE**

(NHES - ELMI)

Annual Average	1998	2008
Civilian labor force	<b>1,952</b>	<b>2,773</b>
Employed	<b>1,896</b>	<b>2,669</b>
Unemployed	<b>56</b>	<b>104</b>
Unemployment rate	<b>2.9%</b>	<b>3.8%</b>

**EMPLOYMENT & WAGES**

(NHES - ELMI)

Annual Average Covered Employment	1998	2008
Goods Producing Industries		
Average Employment	<b>35</b>	<b>77</b>
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$438</b>	<b>\$805</b>
Service Providing Industries		
Average Employment	<b>526</b>	<b>642</b>
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$308</b>	<b>\$472</b>
Total Private Industry		
Average Employment	<b>561</b>	<b>719</b>
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$316</b>	<b>\$508</b>
Government (Federal, State, and Local)		
Average Employment	<b>167</b>	<b>313</b>
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$445</b>	<b>\$650</b>
Total, Private Industry plus Government		
Average Employment	<b>728</b>	<b>1,032</b>
Average Weekly Wage	<b>\$346</b>	<b>\$551</b>

n = indicates that data does not meet disclosure standards

**EDUCATION AND CHILD CARE**Schools students attend: **Alton operates grades K-8; grades 9-12 are jointly managed with Barnstead.**District: **SAU****72/JMA**Career Technology Center(s): **Region 9 Vocational Technical Center, Wolfeboro**Region: **09**

Educational Facilities	Elementary	Middle/Junior High	High School	Private/Parochial
Number of Schools	<b>1</b>		<b>1</b>	
Grade Levels	<b>P K 1-8</b>		<b>9-12</b>	
Total Enrollment	<b>586</b>		<b>534</b>	

NH Licensed Child Care Facilities, 2009: Total Facilities: **4** Total Capacity: **97**Nearest Community/Technical College: **Lakes Region**Nearest Colleges or Universities: **University of NH**

<b>LARGEST BUSINESSES</b>	<b>PRODUCT/SERVICE</b>	<b>EMPLOYEES</b>	<b>ESTABLISHED</b>
Alton School Department	Education	116	1797
Town of Alton	Municipal services	110	1796
McDonald's	Fast food restaurant	50	1995
Hannaford Brothers	Supermarket	38FT & 94 PT	2006
Dunkin' Donuts	Donut shop	20	1996
Water Industries	Commercial pumping systems	20	1963
Alton Home & Lumber	Hardware & lumber sales	10	1994
Christian Conference Center	Recreational, campground	8	1863
Blake Equipment	Water pumps	5	1998

**TRANSPORTATION** (*distances estimated from city/town hall*)

Road Access US Routes  
State Routes **11, 11D, 28, 28A, 140**  
Nearest Interstate, Exit **I-93, Exit 20**  
Distance **28 miles**

Railroad **No**  
Public Transportation **No**

Nearest Public Use Airport, General Aviation  
**Laconia Municipal** Runway **5,286 ft. asphalt**  
Lighted? **Yes** Navigation Aids? **Yes**

Nearest Airport with Scheduled Service  
**Manchester-Boston Regional** Distance **45 miles**  
Number of Passenger Airlines Serving Airport **6**

Driving distance to select cities:  
Manchester, NH **40 miles**  
Portland, Maine **68 miles**  
Boston, Mass. **91 miles**  
New York City, NY **302 miles**  
Montreal, Quebec **254 miles**

**COMMUTING TO WORK** (*US Census Bureau*)

Workers 16 years and over  
Drove alone, car/truck/van **80.2%**  
Carpooled, car/truck/van **14.4%**  
Public transportation **0.0%**  
Walked **1.2%**  
Other means **0.3%**  
Worked at home **3.9%**  
Mean Travel Time to Work **31.1 minutes**

Percent of Working Residents:  
Working in community of residence **24%**  
Commuting to another NH community **68%**  
Commuting out-of-state **9%**

**RECREATION, ATTRACTIONS, AND EVENTS**

**X** Municipal Parks  
**X** YMCA/YWCA  
Boys Club/Girls Club  
Golf Courses  
Swimming: Indoor Facility  
Swimming: Outdoor Facility  
Tennis Courts: Indoor Facility  
**X** Tennis Courts: Outdoor Facility  
Ice Skating Rink: Indoor Facility  
Bowling Facilities  
**X** Museums  
Cinemas  
Performing Arts Facilities  
**X** Tourist Attractions  
**X** Youth Organizations (i.e., Scouts, 4-H)  
**X** Youth Sports: Baseball  
**X** Youth Sports: Soccer  
Youth Sports: Football  
**X** Youth Sports: Basketball  
Youth Sports: Hockey  
**X** Campgrounds  
**X** Fishing/Hunting  
**X** Boating/Marinas  
**X** Snowmobile Trails  
Bicycle Trails  
**X** Cross Country Skiing  
**X** Beach or Waterfront Recreation Area  
Overnight or Day Camps

Nearest Ski Area(s): **Gunstock**Other: **Boat Launch; Town Docks; Swim Dock; Public Beach in Picnic Area; B&M RR; Old Home Days**